

Police coach school kids on bicycle safety, teach traffic laws to Roosevelt, Fell students

By S. ROBERT POWELL

Carbondale Police Department Juvenile Officer, Sergeant Russell A. Scavo, and Pennsylvania State Police Safety Education Officer, Trooper Eugene R. Baidas, presented a program on bicycle safety at the Roosevelt School on Wednesday morning, June 15. The program was repeated on the following day at the Fell Elementary School.

Featured in the program were two films: "The Day the Bicycle Disappeared," and "Jimminy Cricket: I'm No Fool with a Bicycle."

Copies of a bicycle educational pamphlet were distributed to all of the students. In this pamphlet are spelled out the rules that must be followed by all persons who operate a bicycle.

The law requires all bicycle operators to: (1) equip bicycle with a lamp on the

front and a red reflector on the rear; (2) equip bicycle with horn or bell; (3) obey all traffic signals, stop signs, etc.; (4) use proper hand signals to indicate turning and stopping; (5) ride on the right side of the highway; (6) have a license card in his or her immediate possession at all times when operating a bicycle; (7) keep bicycle in safe operating condition.

The law forbids a bicycle rider to: (1) hitch or hold fast to the outside or rear of any other vehicle; (2) carry an extra passenger on the handlebars or any other part of the bicycle; (3) engage in any trick, zig-zag or fancy riding on the highway; (4) ride on sidewalks.

"Any person who violates any provision of the bicycle laws is guilty of a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$10," Trooper Baidas stated. "The

parent of any child and the guardian of any ward who permits the child or ward to violate any of the bicycle laws," Trooper Baidas further remarked, "can also be fined."

This program on bicycle safety is the first such program to be presented at the Roosevelt School this year. "We try to present programs in the schools several times a year, but because of a manpower shortage we have been forced to neglect the school programs," Sergeant Scavo stated.

On June 1, Trooper Baidas and Craig Smith, AAA Motor Club, presented a program on alcohol and its effects on driving to the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades at the Carbondale Area High School. The program, which is presented annually at graduation time, was repeated at Lakeland High School the same week.

First passengers rode Gravity Railroad 153 years ago today

By S. ROBERT POWELL

On June 22, 1830, the first passengers ever to travel over the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad traveled from Honesdale to Carbondale. The extraordinary circumstances surrounding this ride are these:

On June 16, 1830, Philip Hone, Mayor of New York City and President of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, together with a party of 19 friends, boarded the steamboat Albany at New York and traveled up the Hudson River to Bolton, where they spent the night. On the following day, Philip Hone (after whom Honesdale was named) and his guests took passage on the packet boat Silas Wright Jr. and began their journey to Honesdale over the D&H Canal. The evening of the 17th they

stopped at Wurtsboro; on the 18th they stopped at the mouth of the Lackawaxen River. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon on the 19th, they arrived in Honesdale. The 20th and 21st they spent in Honesdale.

On Tuesday, June 22, Philip Hone and his guests boarded two coal cars, which had been provided with seats, and journeyed from Honesdale to Carbondale. At that time, the Gravity Railroad was single tracked and consisted of eight planes (five planes from downtown Carbondale to the summit of the Moosic Mountains at Rix's Gap, two planes between Farview and Waymart, and one plane at Prompton) and three levels (the one and one-half mile level at Rix's Gap, the six-mile level between Waymart and Prompton, and the four-mile level between Prompton and Honesdale).

The entry in Philip Hone's diary for

the 22nd of June declares that the ladies in the party were delighted with "a mode of traveling so novel and interesting." Philip Hone further records in his diary that he and his friends, during their ride over the Moosic Mountains, "were under a strong but agreeable excitement." When Hone and his friends reached Carbondale at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on the 22nd, they stopped at Townsend's Hotel, where they had dinner.

Regular passenger service on the Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale was not instituted until 1877 - 47 years after this pioneer ride by Philip Hone and his friends. Passenger service on that portion of the Gravity Railroad that extended between the Providence section of Scranton and Valley Junction (below Olyphant), however, was begun during the summer of 1880.

City Council discusses floating \$400,000 bond

By S. ROBERT POWELL

Present at Monday's City Council meeting were Councilwoman Moro and Councilmen Calzola, Grecco and Tolerico. Absent were Councilmen McDonough, McMyne and Leo.

Managing Director Masco asked Council to agree in principle to adopt a resolution to consider the floating by the city of a \$400,000 bond or a tax issue as a means of solving the city's pension fund payment problems. Council agreed that before taking any action that a work session and a public meeting be held. Mrs. Moro stated that she, together with an attorney and a CPA, have half completed a financial plan that will allow the city to meet its monthly pension fund payments and that will provide a surplus that will enable the city to pay off its present debts - without making any pension cuts and without raising property taxes. Mrs. Moro asked for about a week to complete the plan, at which time, she will present it to Council and the administration.

Mr. Calzola asked that Ordinance No. 16 for the year 1977 be enforced, suggesting that the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company was not correctly repairing the streets following repairs. Mr. Calzola proposed, in addition, that an emergency ordinance be passed, for the protection of drivers of automobiles and of children, that would reduce the speed limit to 15 mph on Eleventh Avenue near Russell Park between the months of April and September. The ordinance passed.

Mr. Grecco brought to the attention of the administration the motorbike problem in the Scott Street area; in addition, he asked that the possibility of instituting one-way traffic on Scott Street be considered as a means of solving some of the traffic problems in that area of town.

Mr. Tolerico asked Mr. Masco for a report on the Community Development office, stating that that office

was a "hang out." Mr. Tolerico stated: "I come into this building 90 times a month and I've never caught him (Jimmy Spall) working yet." Mr. Masco reported that Mr. Spall was presently working on the Small Cities and Rehab - both of which are on-going programs.

Mr. Grecco stated that he would like to see the city obtain twenty to twenty-five flags, to be attached to the poles on Main Street during holidays such as Flag Day and July 4th.

Susan Stephens asked Mr. Masco if there would be more police protection in town for the Carbondale Area graduation than there was for the Lakeland graduation on June 10. Ms. Stephens stated: "On June 10, at 10 o'clock at night, between the Ben-Mar and City Hall, I saw a guy with a knife, I saw baskets being tipped over, and I saw kids throwing beer bottles from trucks." Ms. Stephens, in addition, asked why the city's aerial truck was recently in Olyphant being used to repair a church steeple. Mr. Masco reported that the truck was being used to make repairs to the Olyphant borough building and not a church.

Ervin Chubb brought to the attention of the city the problem of the garbage dumping from East Garfield back - from Lincoln Avenue towards the Artesian Well on the old railroad bed. Mr. Chubb, in addition, pointed out that motorbikes are getting out of hand in that same area of town. Thirdly, Mr. Chubb pointed out that there is a problem with blocked catch basins in the East Garfield area.

Donald Lynady also brought up the problem of motorbikes in Carbondale, especially in the Russell Park area. He stated: "They're running around like a bunch of madmen on these motorbikes, and they are unlicensed and not inspected."

Peter Judge brought to the attention of the city the brush problem in the area of Spring and Brook Streets, and asked that the brush be cut down.

City's Historical Society to meet

The Carbondale Historical Society will meet on Thursday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the lower room of Carbondale City Hall. On the agenda for the meeting are maintenance of the flower boxes and Gravity and Memorial Parks, the videotapes that are being produced this summer for the society by Mason Essif and John Klimkiewicz, and preparation for the second annual lecture and film series that will be sponsored by the society during Pioneer Days 1983.